

# AVIATOR, FAR UP IN THE SKY, FIGHTS FOR LIFE AGAINST RAIN OF GERMAN SHELLS

Eye Witness, Arrested for Going to Battle Front, Tells How Aeroplane Dodged Shrapnel to Locate Kaiser's Guns at Soissons.

BY WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS.

PARIS, Sept. 24.—Even the high French commanding officers, the generals in the field who are carrying on their winning fight against the Germans, are kept in ignorance of the general situation at points of the line other than that for which they are personally responsible.

I have just returned from the battle front on the French left wing, in the vicinity of Soissons, where the allies are slowly but surely driving the great army of Gen. von Kluck back on his main supports.

The general in command—I am not allowed to give his name—was eager to know what was going on at other points of the 100-mile battle line. He grabbed eagerly at papers a week old and carefully read the official communiques.

The General, the soldiers in the field, the people of France themselves, are all in ignorance of the general movements, for the Government does not intend that the enemy shall profit by any information which would show the disposition of the French-English troops.

## WITNESSED DUEL BETWEEN AEROPLANE AND ARTILLERY.

I had been in Soissons a week ago, when the allies and the Germans were battling for possession of the city. It is now held by the French, but the Germans have mounted their artillery on the ridge that extends to the northward of the city and a few days ago they have maintained their positions. They alternately shell the French position to the south of the city and the city itself.

It was my privilege to witness a duel in the air between a French aviator in a biplane and German artillery posted on the ridge commanding the city.

Probably no more thrilling spectacle has ever been seen by mortal. The aviator was ordered to ascend, carrying an officer assigned to locate the exact position of the German guns which it was desired to silence. I was able to follow his every movement through a pair of powerful field glasses.

As I watched the air craft swing and turn through the small clouds I realized that the aviator was literally playing hide and seek with death. The shells were bursting near him, but he was always on the alert. The biplane would suddenly surge almost directly upward, then describe a giant spiral, then drop far down and always the movement came in the very nick of time to spoil the range of the German artillerymen, who were serving their guns with remarkable precision.

## SHELLS CONSTANTLY BURST NEAR AEROPLANE.

The shells were constantly bursting all about the plane and it was only by the exercise of all of his skill that the pilot was able to keep his machine unscathed. He swung far across the German lines and discovered that the German artillery was posted in a rock quarry, in what was practically an impenetrable position, with the guns masked and mounted so that they commanded the entire British-French positions. The camp was provisioned for a long siege and because of the nature of the ground, both in front and behind it, can only be taken by a tremendous sacrifice.

The aviator, after reporting to the commanding officer, went up again and passed through the same ordeal. This time, however, he was giving the range to the French artillerymen who had brought up their powerful three-inch guns and posted them advanced. The Germans were simply shelled with explosive shells and shrapnel until they were finally compelled to slacken their fire, although they did not abandon their position.

The city of Soissons presents a most terrifying appearance. There is hardly a house that is unscathed by the

## Pretty Refugees Say Wounded German Told Them of Atrocities



Elfrida and Irma Koenen, two pretty young girls who arrived today on the Antilles, refugee ship de Luxe from Genoa, were three weeks in getting from their school at Masecyk, Belgium, to Luereine to join their father. They travelled through Germany and were treated kindly everywhere.

On a train near Mainz a wounded German soldier was put into their compartment. He told them he had been fighting in Belgium and had seen Belgian peasants cut off the fingers and gouge out the eyes of helpless German soldiers. He also charged that the Belgians tried to poison the German invaders.

Decorated from stem to stern with flags and pennants, the Southern Pacific steamship Antilles, under charter to L. F. Lore, President of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad, and John G. Johnson, Philadelphia lawyer, arrived from Genoa and was saluted from Ambrose Channel to her pier by every craft that sighted her through the haze. The Antilles is the only merchant vessel flying the American flag that has been in the harbor of Genoa for ten years.

She was chartered in this port by representatives of Mr. Lore and Mr. Johnson and sailed for Genoa a month ago. Pending her arrival Mr. Lore and Mr. Johnson rounded up 242 American refugees in Switzerland and Italy, who were willing to pay first class prices for first class accommodations. "Lost were friends or relatives of railroad executives or members of Philadelphia families known to Mr. Johnson. The minimum passage rate was \$300 and the maximum \$500.

The passengers of the Antilles were the happiest and most contented lot that have returned from Europe since the war began. They had perfect weather. There were concerts and dances every night.

Among those who furnished music were such stars as Josef Hoffman and Rudolph Gans, the pianists; Frederick Jacob, assistant director of the Metropolitan Opera House, and Louis Koenen, conductor of the New York Oratorio Society and the Mendelssohn Glee Club.

E. B. Thomas, President of the Lehigh Valley Railroad; John G. O'Keefe, Wall street banker, and William Mahl, financier, were among the millionaire passengers.

Mr. O'Keefe and Mr. Mahl confessed that they spent a couple of anxious weeks in Switzerland. Their fortunes are largely in securities. For nearly fifteen days they were absolutely out of touch with the outside world and did not know whether they were paupers or wealthy men.

Two stowaways were discovered on the seventh day out from Genoa. They are Carlo Vastaglia and Alfredo Zappa, New York waiters, who were in Italy on a visit and sneaked aboard the Antilles at Genoa. As they had money and naturalization papers they will be allowed to land.

Capt. H. T. Boyd of the Antilles made himself so popular the passengers bought him a piano. He does not play the piano, however.

## BOMB RIPS SIDEWALK.

A powerful bomb tore a hole in the sidewalk and broke all the windows in the two-story frame dwelling at No. 215 West Fifteenth street, Cooney Island, early today and damaged the adjoining building at No. 213 similarly.

Antonio Lavilla, who occupies No. 217, told the police he knew of no reason why anyone should want to blow up his home. Everyone in both houses

## BOY IS ACCUSED OF KILLING YOUTH IN STREET BATTLE

Feud Between Freeman Street Gang and Jews Results in Murder.

FRANK AHEARN HELD.

Fifteen-Year-Old Is Said to Have Fired Fatal Shot Deliberately.

Fifteen-year-old Frank Ahearn is locked up without bail in the Bronx and, despite his youth, District Attorney Martin will try to have him indicted for murder in the first degree if he can satisfy the Grand Jury that Ahearn, deliberately shot and killed Isidor Gottlieb, near his home, No. 1087 Prospect avenue, last evening.

From bystanders and from friends of Ahearn the detectives learned that the shooting was the outcome of insults which young boys who are known as the Freeman Street Gang perpetrated on the Jewish residents of Prospect avenue on Monday evening. The nine-day celebration of the Jewish New Year, which ends with Yom Kippur on Sept. 20, was in progress and Prospect avenue was filled with holiday Jews. Down upon them came the Freeman Streeters, tearing and yelling and picking at the long beards of Prospect avenue's elderly residents. They swept from one end of the street to the other and back again, seeing when opponents of their own ages rushed to the rescue.

From the steps of their home Isidor and his brother, David, two years older, saw their father thus insulted and led the rush toward his tormentors. The young hoodlums escaped, but on Tuesday evening, so the police say, fifteen-year-old Rubin Bernstein of No. 575 Freeman street admitted to them he accompanied Ahearn back to Prospect avenue to taunt the Gottlieb boys and ask them "what they were going to do about it."

The rest of the story the detectives say they got from Bernstein, whom they are holding as a material witness. Isidor Gottlieb called into the boys with his .25, put them to flight again and warned them that he would give a good beating to the next Freeman Street boy who appeared near his home. Ahearn and the others held counsel and last evening, just before 9 o'clock, three of them, Ahearn, Bernstein and Raymond Dunsman of No. 1214 Simpson street, who also is fifteen years old, took up their stand in front of a store at No. 1087 Prospect avenue, a few doors from Gottlieb's home. Presently Gottlieb and his brother appeared and Ahearn walked boldly up to them. The other boys

did not hear what he said, but they saw Isidor jerk a stick from his pocket and call to his brother: "Here! Use one of them. Let him have it."

Before he struck a blow, however, the boys were startled by the report of a shot and a yell. Isidor Gottlieb, they say, fired the fatal shot. Ahearn was still in the throng when the detectives arrived, and some one pointed him out as the one who had shot. They grabbed him and found marks on the trigger finger of his right hand.

"Is there a doctor in the crowd?" demanded Hagney, and when Dr. Herman Rothman of No. 633 East One Hundred and Sixty-seventh street pushed forward he had the physician look at the marks on Ahearn's fingers.

"They are powder marks," declared the doctor.

David Gottlieb identified the boy, according to the detectives, as the one who had shot and wounded Isidor. He had often seen Ahearn displaying a revolver. Ahearn denied that he had fired, but Coroner Flynn held him without bail for examination on Saturday. His home is at No. 1343 Intervale avenue. Gottlieb, meantime, had been hurried to Lebanon Hospital, but he died within three minutes after he reached there.

Mrs. Elizabeth Ahearn saw her son in the Coroner's Court last night. "He told me he was innocent," said she. "He said he had started to run when the other boy pulled out his stick and that then he heard a shot. He thought they were shooting at him. I know he is telling the truth, but if he wasn't I would want to see him pay the penalty. It is a terrible thing to take a man's life, and if my boy did it he should be punished. Only I know that he didn't. He says he didn't."

## SOUTH AMERICAN TRADE SOUGHT BY GOVERNMENT

Special Agent Goes to Help Open Trade Channels to Merchants.

Among the passengers sailing from Brooklyn on the liner Byron for South American ports this afternoon was Major J. J. Dickinson, special agent of the Department of State. He will be gone three months on duties connected with the opening to the United States of South American trade channels by the European war. It is reported from Washington that his mission is three-fold.

In the first place he will investigate the possibilities of the installation of an international parcel post system between the United States and South American republics. Such a system would, it is believed, be of considerable advantage to merchants of this country.

Another project is the organization of a South American Chamber of Commerce, to be in session at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco. It is understood further that the United States is anticipating that the United States will be called upon to act as an arbitrator in the arrangement of peace in Europe, has under consideration the plan of securing the co-operation of certain of the South American republics, especially those which participated in the A. H. C. conference at Niagara Falls.

## CLOSE "L" OVER BRIDGE.

Shuttle Service Only While the Switches Are Installed.

Heavy road traffic on the Brooklyn Bridge will be slowed, with the exception of a shuttle service on the south tracks from Saturday night at 9 P. M. until 10 P. M. Monday morning, made today by Bridge Commissioner Kreske, who explained the closing of direct traffic was that the electric switches leading into the Municipal Building terminal will be installed.

Connections with the new loop under the Municipal Building and the south tracks will be made the following week. The Commissioner said he expects to see all Brooklyn's devoted transit running into the Municipal Building not later than Nov. 1.

## CARRANZA TELLS WILSON HE WILL NOT ATTACK VILLA

To Order His Troops to Remain on the Defensive, But Ready for Fight.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24.—Gen. Carranza has informed the United States Government he will not attack Gen. Villa, but will order his forces to be on the defensive and resist attack. The First Chief's communication declared the national convention would be held as scheduled on Oct. 1 when a provisional government would be established which he hoped would be satisfactory to the United States.

In a despatch from Chihuahua today Villa is quoted as saying:

"Carranza must go, and go quickly. I have declared hostilities on him and I am prepared to fight until he is forced to flee from Mexico, just as Mexico was compelled to flee. This will not take long, as I expect to push the campaign I have inaugurated with all possible speed."

It was officially stated at the White House today that the latest troubles between Gen. Carranza and Gen. Villa would not alter the plans of the United States as to withdrawing troops from Vera Cruz or the status of the embargo on arms. No date had been fixed for moving the troops. President Wilson is understood to take the position that Carranza and Villa must settle their differences without interference from the United States and that the presence of American troops at Vera Cruz would not solve the difficulty.

According to official information

here Villa is willing to have Carranza become Provisional President of Mexico and run for the Presidency later. It is stated that Villa objects to Carranza's doing both.

As outlined in official circles today, President Wilson will continue to pursue a watchful, waiting policy and allow the Mexicans to work out their own destiny, providing that rights of foreigners are not transgressed.

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 24.—Efforts are being made here to patch up the break between Carranza and Villa. It was announced today. An attempt was made to convene the break but news of it leaked out in certain circles, causing a sensation among military men. It was regarded as most serious. Gen. Pablo Gonzales, at the head of the army of the east, has telegraphed Villa an appeal which gives eight reasons why Villa should recognize Carranza and remain friendly to Carranza.

EL PASO, Tex., Sept. 24.—Gen. Villa's revulsion against the Carranza Government results in a new revolution, the first battle probably will occur at the old battlegrounds of either Torreon or Zacatecas.

Gen. Villa, forced to abandon his expedition in assistance of the Maytorena revolt in Sonora, today prepared to rush his troops south from Juarez and Chihuahua City to meet what was reported as a strong force of Carranza soldiers moving north from Agua Calientes and Zacatecas. All was still in Chihuahua, the state which for four years and in almost as many revolutions has furnished the greatest and most efficient force of fighting men.

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